

CENTRO DI STUDIO PER L'ENDOCRINOLOGIA  
E L'ONCOLOGIA SPERIMENTALE  
DEL CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE  
VIA S. ANDREA DELLE DAME, 2  
80138 NAPOLI (Italy)

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TEL.: (081) 445544

Dr. Maxine Singer  
N.A.E. Section  
Lab. of Biochemistry, NCI  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Md. 20014

Dear Maxine:

I hope you had a good start in this New Year, and that things go fast as usual in your lab. Here I am not doing bad. We are working very hard on several lines, but the most interesting ones are the Friend cells. We are doing at the same time somatic cell hybrids, study on the structure of chromatin, studies of the transcription and isolation of mutants. We have isolated 21 different RNA polymerase mutants in this cell and are certainly in the midst of a problem on how to analyze all of them. Also the work on histidine operator is progressing. In addition, I become involved in the organization of a gigantic didactic operation for our students in the Medical School. It looks as if this year should really become a landmark for the medical studies in this Faculty. And since we are the first to try such methods, maybe even of Italy.

Anyway, the reason of this letter is two-fold. First, I would be very interested in receiving information about your recombinant DNA legislation. While I was in your lab I only superficially followed this subject. Now, however, I am very interested because there is a chance of legislation being "imposed" from the government. Do that many scientists would like to propose themselves a legislation. Therefore, I would be very interested if you could send me material on this subject as well as suggestions. Like, how did you solve the problem in the U.S.

The second problem is the following. For our in vitro work on Friend cells, we need in a near future (actually very soon) to synthesize cDNA to hemoglobin mRNA. My question is the following. a) How is the commercial reverse transcriptase. b) Is the avian myeloblastosis virus available from somebody at NIH (so that we could prepare the enzyme ourselves); c) or do you think we could get the enzyme itself from somebody at NIH? I don't know personally anyone in this field and therefore hope that you can help me. Of course, I would contact anyone personally afterwards.

Give my best regards to everybody in the lab. I cannot think of anyone in particular to send more regards, but maybe a special one to Dinah and Minou. I will probably come to the U.S. beginning of July (I have been invited to the Gordon Conference). So I hope I'll see you then. Thank you very much in advance and say hallo to all your family.

Yours  
Franco